

REMARKS

Claims 9-22 are pending. Upon entry of this response, claims 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, and 22 will be pending, claims 12, 13, and 19 having been amended and claims 9-11, 14, 17, and 20 canceled in this response. The claim 12 amendment finds support in the specification, Example 3, pp. 9-11. The claim 13 amendment finds support in the specification, Example 4, pp. 11-13. Claim 19 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error.

112, 1st Paragraph, Rejections

Claims 11-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 1st paragraph, as allegedly not being enabled for preventing insulin resistance syndrome, diabetes mellitus, and obesity.

Claim 12 as amended is directed to a method for lowering blood glucose level. Claim 13 as amended is directed to a method for reducing visceral fat. Accordingly, as acknowledged by the Examiner, claims 12 and 13 are enabled. See Office Action, page 3, item 4. Claims 11, 14, 17, and 20 have been canceled, rendering their rejections moot.

The rejections are believed to have been overcome. Withdrawal thereof is requested.

102(b) Rejections

Claims 9-12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 11-246399 ("JP '399"). Claims 9-11, 14, 17, and 20 have been canceled, rendering their rejections moot. Applicants traverse the rejections with respect to claims 12, 15, 18, and 21.

Claim 12 as amended is directed to administering a composition comprising at least one selected from the group consisting of curcumin and a curcuminoid as an active agent for the purpose of lowering blood glucose level.

In contrast, JP '399 discloses a composition to suppress the accumulation of triglycerides in the liver. See JP '399, Examples 1 and 2. However, JP '399 neither teaches nor suggests that curcumin or curcuminoid lowers blood glucose level, as recited in claim 12 of the present application.

Therefore, claims 12, 15, 18, and 21 are not believed to be anticipated by JP '399.
Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

Claims 9-11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 99/22728 ("WO '728"). Claims 9-11, 14, 17, and 20 have been canceled, rendering their rejections moot. Applicants traverse the rejections with respect to claims 13, 16, 19, and 22.

Claim 13 as amended is directed to administering a composition comprising at least one selected from the group consisting of curcumin and a curcuminoid as an active agent for the purpose of reducing visceral fat.

In contrast, WO '728 discloses a compound to decrease organ and body weight and, hence, concludes that the compound may be used to treat obesity. See WO '728, page 12, ll. 4-5. The disclosed organs include androgen-dependent body organs, such as the prostate. See WO '728, page 4, line 30 – page 5, line 2. However, WO '728 neither teaches nor suggests that curcumin or curcuminoid reduces visceral fat, as recited in claim 13 of the present application.

Therefore, claims 13, 16, 19, and 22 are not believed to be anticipated by WO '728.
Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

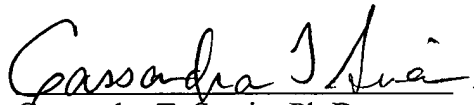
CONCLUSION

The claims are believed to be allowable. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any information concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cassandra T. Swain".

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